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27 September 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 27 September 1968

DD/I drew attention to a letter from George Ball to Roger Seely lauding the quality and utility to our UN delegation of the FBIS reporting on Czechoslovakia.

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Godfrey noted an AP story that Smrkovsky will not be part of the Czech leadership delegation to Moscow, thereby lending credence to the indications that Smrkovsky is near the top of the Soviet black list.

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D/ONE advised that the Secret Service has requested an estimate on security conditions in Mexico in connection with Mr. Nixon's trip scheduled for 15 October. D/ONE passed along a memorandum for the Director pointing out that Mr. Nixon's trip is fraught with possible dire consequences.

DD/S noted that Wednesday's cafeteria boycott resulted in a 50 percent reduction in traffic. He advised that the GSI President has agreed to a number of improvements but pointed out that posters are reappearing calling for another boycott from 30 September to 4 October. DD/S asked Morning Meeting participants to inform their subordinate offices that such activities as boycotts are not the appropriate way to bring about desired change.

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Carver noted that military activity in South Vietnam is relatively quiescent.

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Maury advised that Congressman Lipscomb was provided unclassified material on Cuban military developments for a speech he intends to make.

*ADD/P reported that there are indications from four Latin American countries that extremists intend to utilize 8 October, the anniversary of Che Guevara's death, to launch attacks on Peace Corps and other American personnel. The Director concurred in the ADD/P's suggestion that the latter meet with Jack Vaughn to advise him of the situation.

ADD/P discussed plans for replaying Polish author Andrzejewski's letter of protest over Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia.

*ADD/P provided a copy of the issue of Problems of Communism which provoked a complaint by Ambassador Dobrynin to Secretary Rusk. The Director asked the ADD/P to prepare a note to Leonard Marks for the Director's signature commenting favorably on the publication and its general usefulness.

DDCI drew attention to the articles in this morning's Washington Post and New York Times reporting Pravda's justification of intervention in fraternal socialist countries on the basis of Marxist-Leninist legality.

*The Director indicated that Walt Rostow has raised his staff's concern over recent indications, such as aircraft movements, of unusual activity in China. Rostow asked the Director to provide a paper analyzing these indications, and the Director passed the request on to the DD/I.

The Director noted that Under Secretary Katzenbach spoke most favorably at yesterday's nongroup meeting about the Agency analysts with whom he met on 24 September on Vietnam.

The Director drew attention to Meg Greenfield's article on the editorial page of today's Washington Post.

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Goodwin called attention to a series of articles on the SDS beginning this month in the Reader's Digest.



L. K. White

*Extracted and sent to action officer

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Through a Glass Darkly on HHH

By Meg Greenfield

Washington Post Staff Writer

At the end of several weeks of reading wire copy, Nation-wide newspaper accounts, and a ton and a half of magazine prose, not to mention prolonged periods before the TV set, we are no longer certain whether we read the following dispatch somewhere, or—more probably—imagined it.

CENTER CITY, Sept. 27—A group of idealistic young people chanting "Shut up" and "Drop dead" was interrupted four times this afternoon by Vice President Humphrey. The interruptions were part of a speech which the youths charged had been "planned." Visibly upset by the disturbance, the young people then sawed down a grandstand on which a crowd estimated at 20,000 was sitting.

The episode was further evidence of the Vice President's continuing failure to identify himself with the aspirations of the young.

"This is just another example of how the system works," one of the six disillusioned youths told reporters. "They have no sense of the relevant. I was for Marcus Raskin before the convention, but now I'll probably vote for General Walker."

Mr. Humphrey's inability to capture the allegiance of this key group of voters could probably cost him the election.

DESPITE THIS latest in a series of major setbacks, Mr. Humphrey and his aides stuck to the line that the day had been a success. They professed elation at the size of the crowd, pointing out that it had cheered his remarks loudly and repeatedly until it became distracted by the sawing youths below. In the opinion of several observers, however, the cheering, though loud and frequent, seemed forced.

There was also some dispute about the size of the turnout which city officials claimed was unprecedented. They did not add that the rally had been planned, probably intentionally, to coincide with the annual autumn white sale at Markowitz's Department Store only two and a half miles away. Newsmen traveling with the Vice President counted several Markowitz's shopping bags in the crowd, and also uncovered

evidence that the 20,000 person estimate had been padded.

Mrs. Winifred Hoskins, a grandmother, who was interviewed at the entrance of the stadium, said that if she was counted in the estimate she should not have been. Mrs. Hoskins said that she had been changing buses when she heard all the noise inside and thought she would go in to see what it was. Asked her opinion of the Vice President, Mrs. Hoskins said, "I think he's a crook like all the rest of them. He really has a nerve comin' here."

Police refused tonight to say whether Mrs. Hoskins and five other persons who admitted walking in from the bus stop had been counted in the crowd.

IN AN ADDRESS lasting more than 55 minutes, the Vice President once again failed to attack President Johnson. He also did not excoriate the slow pace of negotiations in Paris or condemn the Administration's conduct of the war. Mr. Humphrey was pointedly silent, in addition, on what he would do if the Chinese invaded Nepal. He did not explain his differences, if any, with the Johnson Administration over the handling of Fidel Castro and the recognition of Communist China.

Other subjects conspicuously not mentioned by Mr. Humphrey included the 1965 action in the Dominican Republic, General de Gaulle, and Billie Sol Estes.

Defensive Humphrey aides later attempted without success to meet the newsmen's complaints on this score by pointing out that the subject of the Vice President's address had been a comprehensive program of reforms for Federal welfare law. They declared that the program represented four months of work by an academic task force. Newsmen, however, remained unconvinced.

This growing alienation of the press represents another major failure of Mr. Humphrey's campaign to date. Many observers believe that he has only a slim chance of election unless he manages in the short time left to capture the imagination of youth, the reporters traveling with him, and similar major sectors of the population.

Mr. Humphrey's proposals on social welfare included 11 points.

Bloc Goals Outrank Freedom—Pravda

By Anatole Shub
Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, Sept. 26—Pravda declared today that “abstract,” “formal” ideas of sovereignty and national independence could not and will not inhibit the Kremlin from forceful intervention against “counterrevolutionaries” in Communist countries and against “the revival of neo-Nazism” in West Germany.

The Soviet Communist Party's official daily declared that the Kremlin bloc is “indivisible” and that even “non-aligned” Communist countries (such as China, Yugoslavia, Cuba and Rumania) owe their independence to the armed might of the Soviet Union.

Pravda's declaration—which flatly reversed positions taken here in the mid-1950s by Nikita Khrushchev—was considered an authoritative doctrinal statement although signed by Sergei Kovalev, whom the official news agency Tass identified as “a publicist.”

Khrushchev, in declarations adopted in Belgrade in 1955 and Moscow in 1956, had stressed a new Soviet adherence to the principles of sovereignty, national independence, equality and noninterference in the relations between Communist countries.

Today's Pravda statement, aimed largely at justifying the current occupation of Czechoslovakia, conceded only that ruling Communist parties had the right “to guide the path of development of their countries.”

“However,” Pravda said,
See SOVIET, A13, Col. 1

Pravda Says Bloc's Needs Rank Over Sovereignty

SOVIET, From A1

"none of its decisions must inflict damage either on socialism in its country or on the basic interests of other socialist countries . . . Every Communist Party is responsible not only to its own people but to all the socialist countries . . . One or another socialist state, within the system of

other states constituting the socialist community, cannot be free from the common interests of that community.

"The sovereignty of individual socialist countries cannot be counterposed to the interests of world socialism" (According to Kremlin doctrine, the interests of world socialism have been identical since 1917 with the policy of the Soviet government.)

'Norms' Respected

Pravda said that the Soviet Union and its friends had often demonstrated their respect for "democratic norms of international law." However, the Soviet Party organ declared, "in the Marxist understanding, legal norms, including the norms of mutual relations between socialist countries, cannot be interpreted in a narrow, formal way, apart from the general context of class struggle in the contemporary world. The socialist countries come out decisively against the export and import of counterrevolution."

While each Communist Party was free to apply the principles of Marxism-Leninism, Pravda said, it "cannot depart from these principles" and remain a Communist Party.

Concretely, the Soviet organ declared no Communist Party could ignore "such a decisive fact of our time as the struggle between two social systems." Pravda then quoted a dictum of Lenin that each per-

son must take a stand on one side or the other, and attempts to avoid choosing sides were doomed.

Czechs in Peril

"A formal observance of the right of nations to self-determination" in the Czechoslovak crisis, Pravda argued, would have driven the country "into the jaws of the West German revanchists." Therefore the invasion and occupation are really "a practical struggle for the sovereignty of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic."

The Kremlin and its allies, Pravda said, had employed "maximum restraint and patience" in attempting to resolve the Czechoslovak situation by political means. However, when these failed, they used armed force.

Class Struggle Paramount

The occupation troops "are conducting struggle for the principle of self-determination of the peoples of Czechoslovakia, for their inalienable right themselves to decide their own fate without intimidation by counterrevolutionaries, without revisionist and nationalist demagoguery."

Those who speak of the illegality of the occupation forget, Pravda said, "that in a class society there is not and cannot be a non-class law." The demands of class struggle "cannot be ignored because of formal juridical considerations," the Soviet organ declared.

"Such an approach to the

question of sovereignty would mean, for example, that the progressive forces of the world could not intervene against the revival of neofascism in West Germany, or against the regimes in Spain, Portugal or Greece because

this might be considered "the internal affair" of "sovereign states" (Pravda's quotation marks.)

The Pravda declaration did not appear to augur well for Alexander Dubcek and his liberal Prague Colleagues, and

some observers felt the Kremlin has also decided to burn the last ideological bridges to normal relations with Yugoslavia and Rumania. Today's statement diametrically contradicts the maneuvers of both Yugoslav and Rumanian policy.